OPERATION: SURVIVAL IN THE WOODS

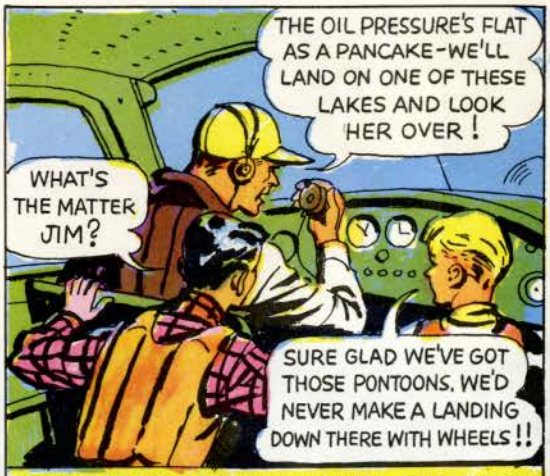
EACH YEAR PEOPLE GET LOST IN ONTARIO'S 217,000 SQUARE MILES OF FORESTS. SOME DIE NEEDLESSLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WOODS AND LACK THE SKILLS TO SURVIVE. WITH INCREASED AIR TRAVEL AND MORE INTEREST IN OUTDOOR VACATIONS THE CHANCES OF BEING LOST ARE GREATER THAN EVER. **KNOW YOUR SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES . . . . THEY MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

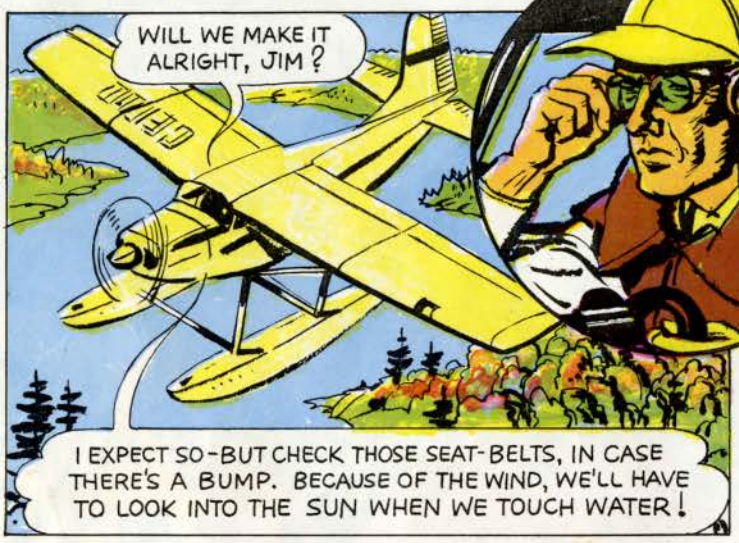
THE HON. J.W. SPOONER
MINISTER

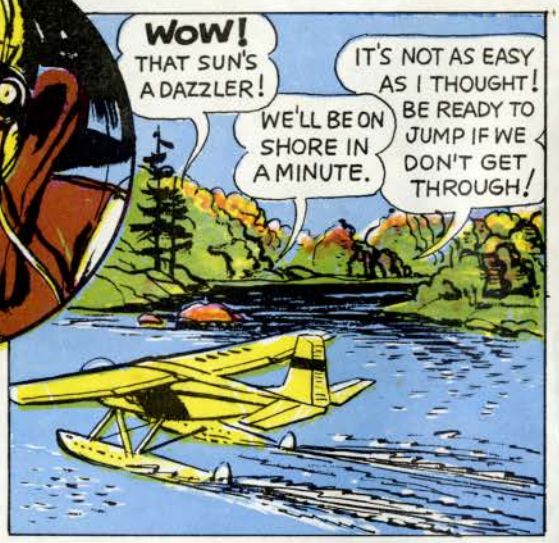
F.A. MACDOUGALL
DEPUTY MINISTER

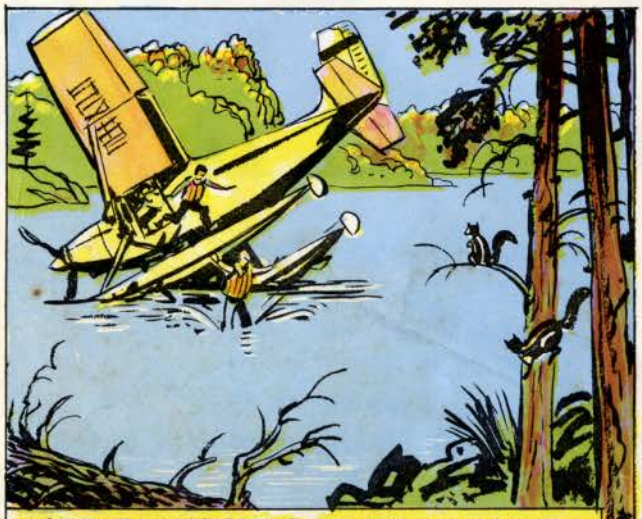
IT WAS A SUNNY AUGUST AFTERNOON. JIM TURNER WHO FLEW HIS OWN PLANE INVITED HIS YOUNG FRIENDS TOM DOUGLAS AND BOB HENNESSEY FOR A DAY'S SPIN OVER ONTARIO. THEY WERE HIGH OVER THE NORTHERN BUSH WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENED . . . .
. . . . AN ADVENTURE THE BOYS WILL REMEMBER AS LONG AS THEY LIVE



SUDDENLY THE ENGINE DIED AND THE PLANE BEGAN TO LOSE HEIGHT. JIM CHOSE AN OPEN LAKE AND SKILFULLY PUT THE CRAFT INTO A LONG GLIDE.





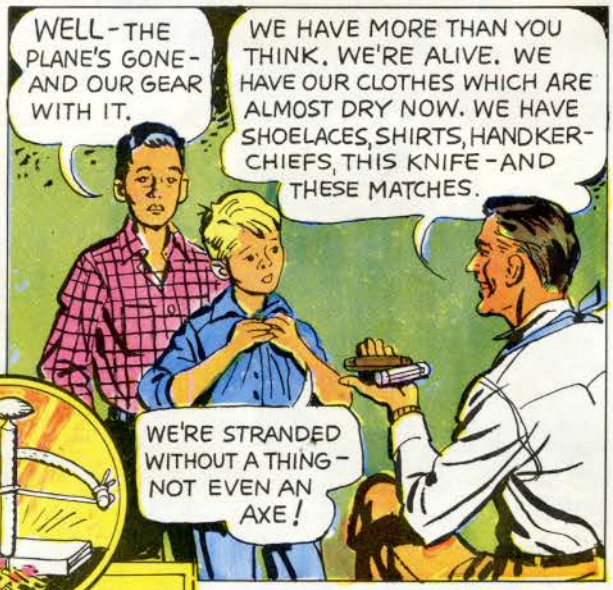


WITHOUT MOTOR POWER JIM COULD NOT AVOID A ROCKY REEF HIDDEN BY SUN GLARE AND WAVES. THE PONTOONS RIPPED OPEN AND THE SHIP BEGAN TO SINK.

TOM AND BOB WERE ALMOST ON SHORE WHEN THEY REALIZED JIM WAS IN TROUBLE. BOB STAYED ON THE BEACH WHILE TOM WENT BACK TO HELP.

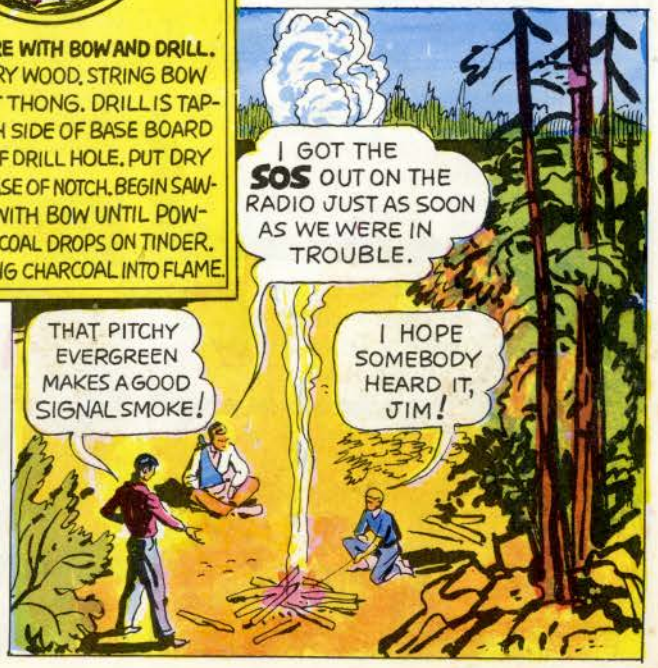
TOM'S WATER SAFETY COURSE CAME IN HANDY. HOLDING JIM'S FACE ABOVE WATER AND USING THE FROG KICK, TOM TOWED THE PILOT TO SHORE.

THEY SET JIM'S ARM, WITH BRANCHES FOR SPLINTS AND A MAKESHIFT SLING THEY TENDED TO THE BROKEN ARM.



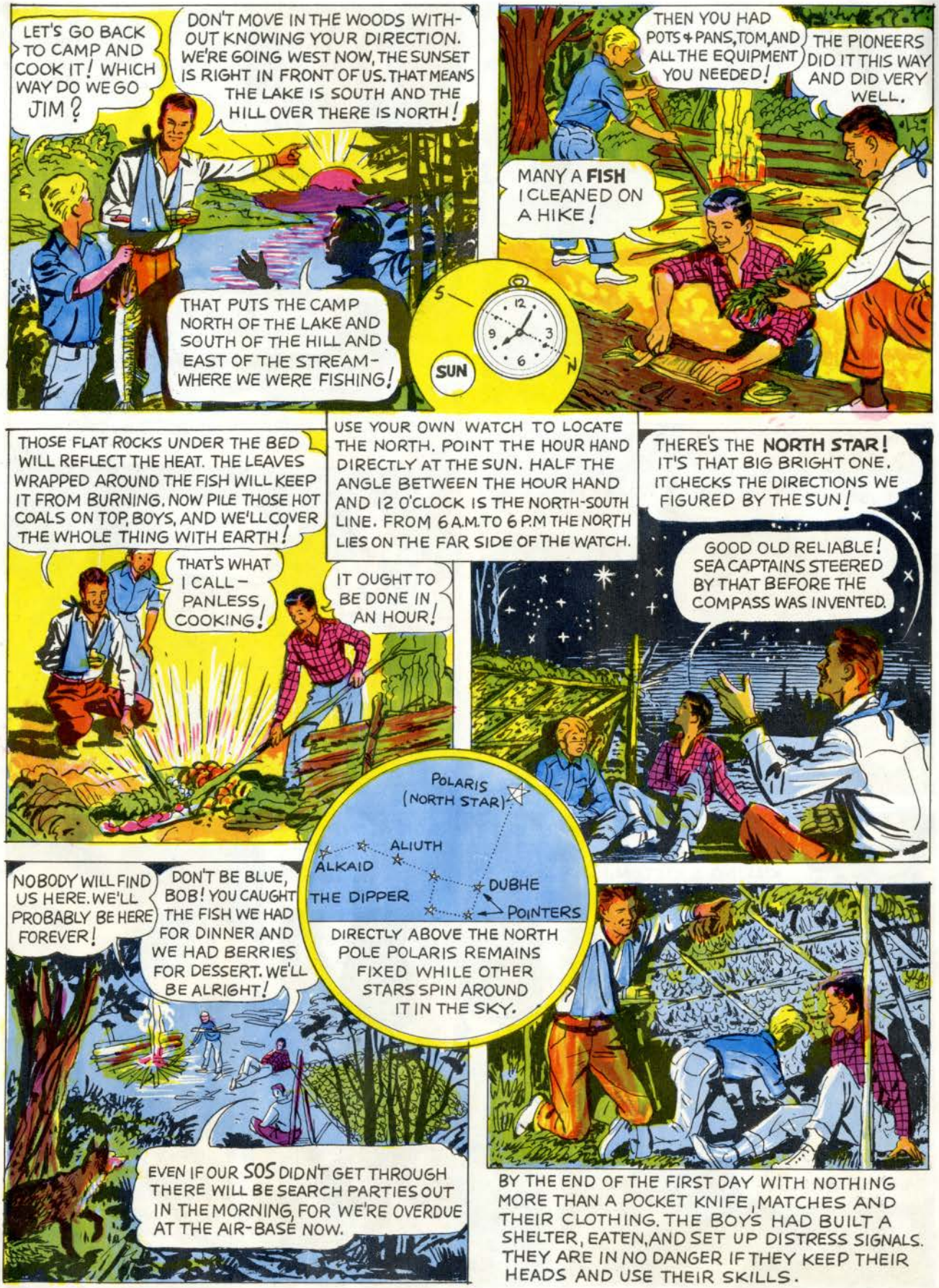
TO MAKE FIRE WITH BOW AND DRILL. USE SOFT DRY WOOD. STRING BOW WITH STOUT THONG. DRILL IS TAPERED. NOTCH SIDE OF BASE BOARD TO CENTRE OF DRILL HOLE. PUT DRY TINDER AT BASE OF NOTCH. BEGIN SAWING ACTION WITH BOW UNTIL POWDERED CHARCOAL DROPS ON TINDER. BLOW GLOWING CHARCOAL INTO FLAME.

WHILE IN THE BUSH THE BOYS BUILT FIRES TO SIGNAL AIRCRAFT AND FOR COOKING. THEY LIT THEM IN CLEARINGS AWAY FROM UNDERBRUSH TO PREVENT A SPREADING BLAZE.

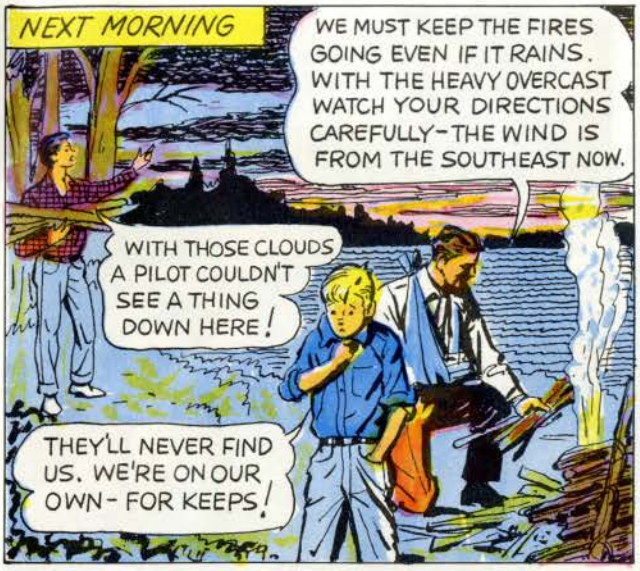


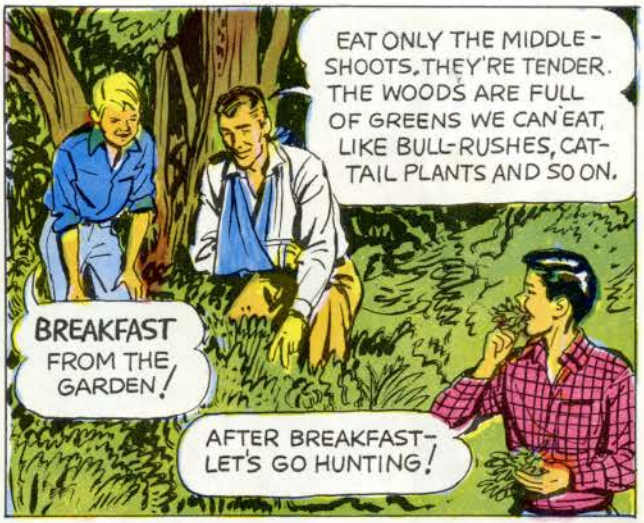
FOR THEIR CAMPSITE THEY CHOSE A CLEARING ON LEVEL GROUND BETWEEN THE LAKESHORE AND A HILL TO THE NORTH. WITH STONES FOR HAMMERS THEY DROVE IN LONG STAKES FOR THEIR LEAN-TO, TIED CROSS POLES IN PLACE WITH SAPLINGS AND PILED ON THICK EVERGREENS. FROM LOGS THEY MADE A HEAT REFLECTOR FOR THEIR COOKING FIRE.

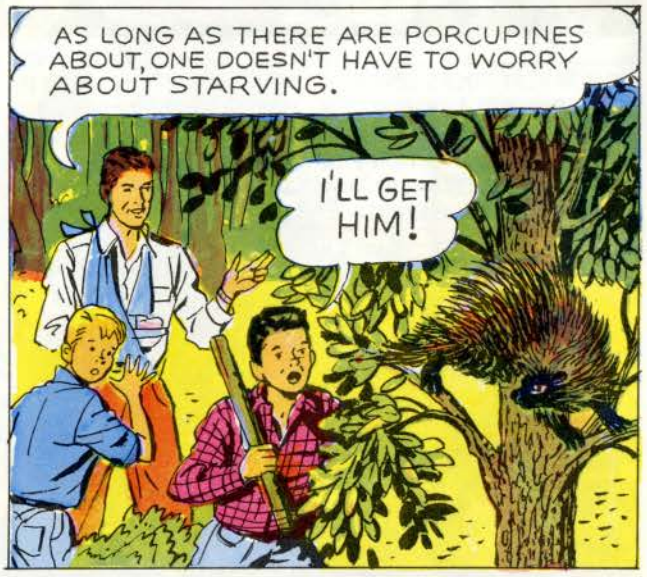
WITHOUT FISHING LINES THE BOYS STOOD IN MID STREAM ATTEMPTING TO DRIVE FISH INTO THE SHALLOWS NEAR THE SHORE.



BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A POCKET KNIFE, MATCHES AND THEIR CLOTHING. THE BOYS HAD BUILT A SHELTER, EATEN, AND SET UP DISTRESS SIGNALS. THEY ARE IN NO DANGER IF THEY KEEP THEIR HEADS AND USE THEIR SKILLS.





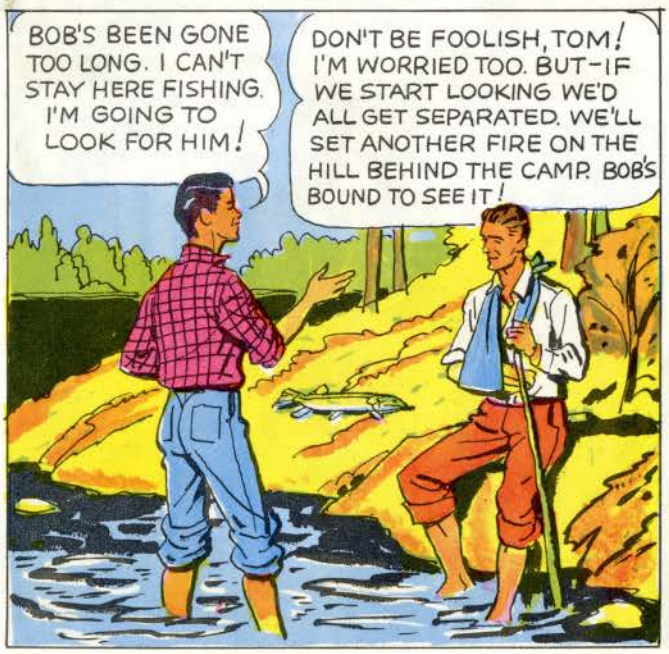


WHEN PORKY WAS SKINNED AND CLEANED JIM SKEWERED IT ON A STICK AND BARBECUED IT OVER THE FIRE. THIS IS A FAST METHOD. BUT MUCH OF THE NOURISHMENT ESCAPES.

THE RAIN CONTINUED INTO THE NIGHT AND THE BOYS WERE THANKFUL THEY HAD BUILT THEIR LEAN-TO WELL AND ON HIGH GROUND.

BOB FOLLOWED THE SQUIRREL AS IT LED HIM TO HIS CACHE DEEPER IN THE BUSH.

LOST!



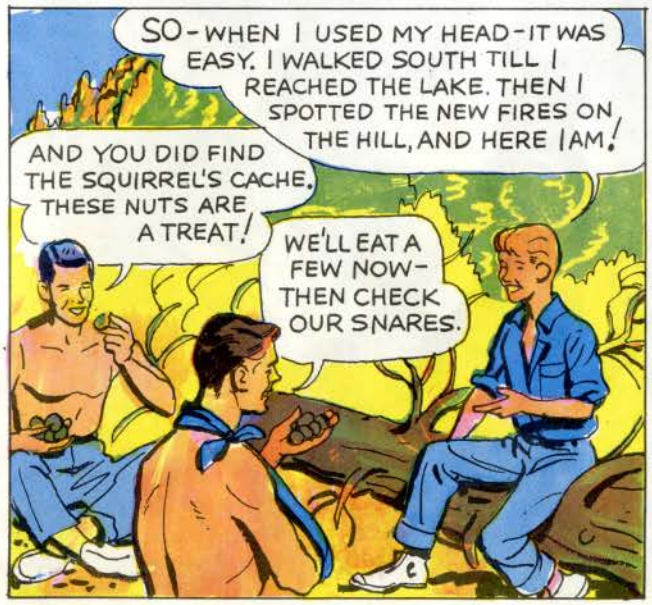
LOOK- DEER TRACKS GO QUIETLY, WE MIGHT SEE ONE!

THAT DEER WAS HERE, TOO. THESE TRACKS ARE LIKE THE ONES WE SAW BEFORE!
LOOK AT THESE, THEY'RE BEAR! I HOPE BOB DOESN'T MEET HIM!

A RACCOON CAME HERE NOT LONG AGO. RABBITS TOO. IT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR OUR SNARES!
I GUESS THIS IS A FAVOURITE DRINKING SPOT!

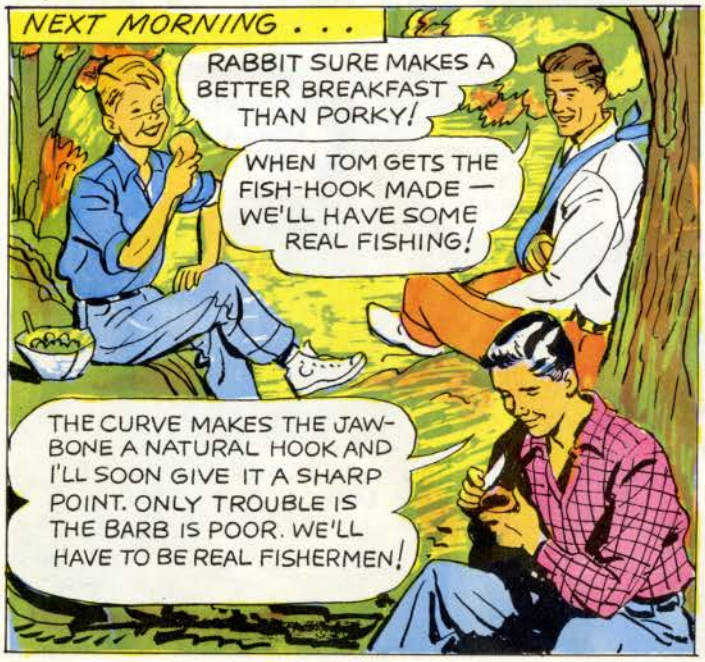
ARE WE GLAD YOU'RE BACK! WE WERE REALLY WORRIED, BOB.
WHAT HAPPENED? ONE MINUTE YOU WERE WITH US AND THE NEXT YOU'RE GONE. I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU!

BOB EXPLAINS . . . .
ALL ALONE IN THE DEEP WOODS BOB KNEW REAL FEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE. HE FOUGHT OFF THE URGE TO RUN AND FORCED HIMSELF TO THINK.


SO- WHEN I USED MY HEAD- IT WAS EASY. I WALKED SOUTH TILL I REACHED THE LAKE. THEN I SPOTTED THE NEW FIRES ON THE HILL, AND HERE I AM!
AND YOU DID FIND THE SQUIRREL'S CACHE. THESE NUTS ARE A TREAT!
WE'LL EAT A FEW NOW- THEN CHECK OUR SNARES.

NOT EVEN A GRASSHOPPER HAS BEEN NEAR THIS ONE!
SOMETHING HAS BEEN HERE ALRIGHT- HE MOVED THE NOOSE!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEXT ONE- TOM!

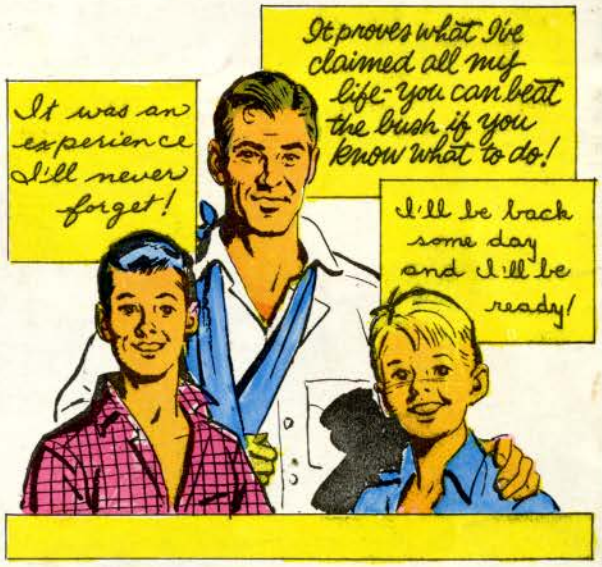
TO SKIN THE RABBIT BREAK THE HIND LEGS AND STRIP PELT OVER THE BACK. IT IS SIMILAR TO PULLING OFF A SWEATER.



BLACK BEARS ARE COMMON IN ONTARIO FORESTS. THEY ARE HARMLESS IF NOT MOLESTED. STAY WELL AWAY FROM CUBS. THE MOTHER FEARS FOR THEIR SAFETY AND IS DANGEROUS.

THE PLANE'S DEPARTURE MADE THEM MORE AWARE OF THEIR POSITION. PREPARING FOR A LONGER STAY THEY PILED MORE BRUSH ON THEIR LEAN-TO AND GATHERED MORE TO MAKE THEIR FIRES SMOKE. PLANS WERE MADE TO GET MORE FISH, GAME AND OTHER FOOD.

BEFORE LEAVING THEY CAREFULLY PUT OUT THE FIRES. THEY KNEW THAT FOREST FIRES DO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS DAMAGE EACH YEAR IN ONTARIO FORESTS.
DON'T TAKE CHANCES WITH FIRE!



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE LOST IN THE WOODS

MERELY BEING ALONE IN THE WOODS OUT OF SIGHT OF OTHERS IS A STRANGE AND FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE. THIS IS A COMMON FEELING BUT A **DANGEROUS ONE – FIGHT IT.** IN THE FOREST THE **GRIP OF PANIC** IS TOO OFTEN THE **GRIP OF DEATH.**

WHEN YOU ARE LOST –

- **STOP, SIT DOWN,** TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU ARE. USE YOUR **HEAD** NOT YOUR **LEGS.**
- **BUILD A FIRE** AS SOON AS YOU CAN. DEAD TREES STILL STANDING MAKE EXCELLENT FIRE WOOD.
- USE BARK AND DRY BRUSH FOR LIGHTING FIRES. **SAVE YOUR MATCHES.** THEY MAY HAVE TO LAST LONGER THAN YOU THINK.
- **MAKE YOUR FIRE IN A CLEARING** TO REDUCE THREAT OF SPREADING. IT IS ALSO EASIER TO SPOT FROM THE AIR.
- **FOR SIGNALS** KEEP YOUR FIRES GOING ON A 24 HOUR SCHEDULE. BE CAREFUL-A BUSH FIRE IS EASILY IGNITED.
- FOR COOKING USE A SMALL FIRE WITH GLOWING EMBERS.
- **STAY WHERE YOU ARE. USE YOUR ENERGY FOR FINDING FOOD AND TENDING FIRES**
- **MAKE A SHELTER.** WHERE THERE IS PROTECTION FROM THE WIND.
- KEEP YOUR CLOTHES **DRY** AND IN GOOD REPAIR.
- EAT THE MIDDLE SHOOTS OF EDIBLE PLANTS AND FERNS, GREEN LEAVES AND BERRIES.
- HUNT FISH AND GAME, MAKE AS MANY SNARES AS YOU CAN.
- IT TAKES **THREE** TO **FIVE** DAYS TO ORGANIZE A FULL SCALE SEARCH. **REMAIN IN CAMP.**
- KEEP THE FIRES GOING. KEEP ALERT BY KEEPING BUSY.
- **A THINKING MAN IS NEVER LOST FOR LONG. USE YOUR HEAD AND CHANCES ARE GOOD YOU WILL COME OUT ALIVE.**
- **DON'T TAKE CHANCES WITH FIRE!**